

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 065763
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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EUR/RPM:LBRECKON (SUBS)
S/S:TGMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 065763

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MNUC, PARM, UK

SUBJECT: UK PROPOSED NATO STATEMENT ON ERW

REF: LONDON 4019

1. BRITISH DCM ROBINSON AND POL/MIL OFFICER REEVE CALLED ON PM DIRECTOR GELB MARCH 13 TO PRESENT TEXT OF UK DRAFT NATO STATEMENT ON ERW AS CONTAINED IN REFTEL. BRITISH LATER CALLED TO ADD SENTENCE AFTER 5TH SENTENCE, 2ND PARAGRAPH: "THEY THEREFORE LOOK TO THE SOVIET UNION TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE US PROPOSAL TO FOREGO DEPLOYMENT OF ERWS IN EUROPE, IF THE SOVIET UNION WILL FOREGO DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-20." ROBINSON SAID IF THIS TEXT WERE ACCEPTABLE, HMG PLANNED TO CIRCULATE IT AS BASIS FOR A NATO COMMUNIQUE, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MINISTERS.

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2. IN MEETING WITH ROBINSON MARCH 14 TO RESPOND TO UK PAPER, GELB GAVE ROBINSON TEXT OF NON-PAPER WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 3. GELB SAID UK PAPER HAD BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN STRUCTURING US LANGUAGE, AND HE BELIEVED BRITISH WOULD FIND SOME OF THEIR MAIN POINTS IN IT. GELB SAID WE WANTED UK REACTION BEFORE WE SEND OUR DRAFT LANGUAGE TO

OTHER ALLIES, AND REQUESTED BRITISH RESPONSE ON MARCH 15 IF POSSIBLE. GELB CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THAT US WANTS TO MOVE

RAPIDLY TO A RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE ALONG THE LINES OF THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF NON-PAPER:

ILLUSTRATIVE SUMMING UP FOR THE PRESS BY SYG LUNS: THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MET TODAY TO CONTINUE ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS ON ISSUES OF THEATER NUCLEAR MODERNIZATION AND ARMS CONTROL IN EUROPE. THE ALLIES REVIEWED THE IMPROVEMENTS, BOTH QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE, THAT ARE UNDERWAY IN SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT FORCES. IN PARTICULAR, THEY NOTED THE APPARENT SOVIET INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-20, A NEW AND EXTREMELY DESTRUCTIVE INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE. SOVIET STATEMENTS ABOUT ER ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR OWN CONTINUING EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE THEIR TNF, ESPECIALLY THE SS-20. THE ALLIANCE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE CAPABILITIES OF NATO FORCES TO DETER AGGRESSION, OR IF DETERRENCE SHOULD FAIL, TO MEET THE DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ALLIANCE AT WHATEVER LEVEL WAS REQUIRED. THERE WAS AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE STEPS TO MODERNIZE NATO FORCES ACROSS THE BROAD RANGE OF CAPABILITIES IN VIEW OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN WARSAW PACT FORCES. IN THIS REGARD, NOTE WAS TAKEN OF THE DECISION BY US AUTHORITIES, FOLLOWING
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ALLIANCE CONSULTATIONS, TO SCHEDULE PRODUCTION OF ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEADS FOR THE LANCE MISSILE AND THE EIGHT INCH HOWITZER, LEADING TO DEPLOYMENT IN 18 TO 24 MONTHS. THE ALLIANCE NOTED THE POTENTIAL MILITARY VALUE OF THE ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEAD IN STRENGTHENING DETERRENCE, WITHOUT LOWERING THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD, IN THE FACE OF A CONTINUING BUILD-UP OF SOVIET OFFENSIVE ARMORED CAPABILITIES.

THE ALLIANCE REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF ARMAMENTS IN EUROPE, BOTH NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL, AVOID ARMS RACE, AND PURSUE THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBER STATES THROUGH ARMS CONTROL.

THE ALLIANCE AGREED THAT POSSIBILITIES FOR REACHING AN ARMS CONTROL SOLUTION THAT ENHANCED NATO SECURITY AND STABILITY IN EUROPE SHOULD BE EXPLORED THOROUGHLY BEFORE DEPLOYMENT OF THESE WEAPONS. IN VIEW OF EVIDENT SOVIET INTEREST IN LIMITATIONS ON ERW AND THE ALLIANCE'S CONCERN OVER THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-20, THE ALLIES ENDORSED THE US PROPOSAL TO FOREGO THE DEPLOYMENT OF BOTH SYSTEMS. THE CONTRIBUTION THAT SUCH A MUTUAL AGREEMENT WOULD MAKE TO STABI-

LITY AND ALLIANCE SECURITY WOULD WARRANT AN ALLIANCE DECISION TO FOREGO THE CONTRIBUTION ERW COULD MAKE TO ENHANCING THE ALLIANCE'S DETERRENCE AND DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY AGAINST THE SOVIET ARMOR THREAT. THUS, IT WAS THE SENSE OF THE MEETING THAT IF THE SOVIETS DO NOT ACCEPT THE US PROPOSAL BY HALTING DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-20 AND BEGINNING SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, THE ALLIANCE WOULD PROCEED WITH DEPLOYMENT OF ENHANCED RADIATION WARHEADS IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER TO COUNTER SOVIET OFFENSIVE ARMORED CAPABILITIES.

4. ROBINSON SAID HE WOULD REQUEST RAPID UK RESPONSE, BUT SPECULATED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO SEND THE STATEMENT TO MINISTERS. WE AGAIN STRESSED THAT US NON-PAPER WAS INFORMAL AND WAS BEING GIVEN ONLY TO UK AT THE MOMENT, BUT
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APPROVED BY:EUR:JWSHINN

EUR:PRM:LBRECKON

EUR:RPM:SJLEDOGAR

S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED MARCH 15,
1978 SENT LONDON INFO WHITE HOUSE IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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